

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 EB-11

CIEP-03 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-03

XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 CU-05 MC-02 AEC-11 FEA-02

INT-08 SCI-06 DRC-01 /294 W
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R 130420Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4248

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4113

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, BG

SUBJ: BANGLADESH'S ATTITUDE TOWARD UNGA

REF: STATE 18454

SUMMARY: WE HAVE DISCUSSED PERTINENT UNGA ISSUES WITH SENIOR AND WORKING LEVELS OF THE MFA. PRINCIPAL EMPHASIS OF OUR DEMARCHE WAS UPON OUR HOPE THAT BDG WOULD JOIN US IN ENCOURAGING REALISTIC AND PRAGMATIC UNGA ACTION ON ISSUES WHERE ACHIEVEMENT IS POSSIBLE AND WOULD RECOGNIZE THAT MAJORITY RESOLUTIONS WHICH IGNORE THE VIEWS OF THE SIGNIFICANT MINORITY ARE SELDOM FRUITFUL AND OFTEN COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. WHILE AGREEING WITH LOGIC OF OUR POSITION AND EXPRESSING THE DESIRE TO BE A MODERATING INFLUENCE AT UNGA, MFA OFFICIALS STRESSED THE PROBLEM OF RECONCILING BDG'S PERCEIVED NEED TO ENHANCE ITS NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS AMONG THE MAJORITY MEMBERS WITH ITS NEED TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE
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FINANCIALLY ABLE MINORITY. THE MFA WELCOMED THE INVITATION TO

CONSULT WITH THE US DELEGATION, BUT STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT IT FELT COMPELLED TO FOLLOW THE NONALIGNED POSITION ON MOST POLITICAL ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED OVERALL USG POSITION TOWARD UNGA WITH ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY FAKHRUDDIN AHMED SEPTEMBER 6, HIGHLIGHTING THE NEED FOR RESPONSIBLE ACTION BY ALL MEMBERS AS THE ONLY MANNER IN WHICH PRACTICAL RESULTS CAN BE OBTAINED, AND THE USG'S DESIRE TO UTILIZE EXISTING BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CHANNELS FOR

ASSISTANCE TO THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED NATIONS. AMBASSADOR ALSO EXPLAINED THE SECRETARY'S PERSONAL CONCERN OVER THE ISSUE OF CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION; FAKHRUDDIN SAID THAT HE WOULD CONVEY OUR VIEWS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER (WHO IS ON A TRIP TO WESTERN EUROPE). THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE KOREAN QUESTION.

2. THE POLITICAL CONSELOR AND AN EMBASSY OFFICER MADE ADDITIONAL APPROACHES TO ABUL AHSAN AND REAZ RAHMAN, DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND DIRECTOR, RESPECTIVELY, FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND BOTH MEMBERS OF THE BDG DELEGATION TO THE UNGA. IN RESPONSE TO OUR VIEWS ON THE NEED FOR REALISM AND THE POTENTIAL COSTS OF MAJORITY RESOLUTIONS WHICH ALIENATE THOSE NECESSARY TO THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, AHSAN PLEADED FOR A MEASURE OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE DILEMMA BDG FACES IN MAINTAINING ITS NONALIGNED TIES AND IN INSURING ITS ABILITY TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC AID. AHSAN ASKED ABOUT THE US POSITION ON ONLY ONE ISSUE: CYPRUS. NOTING THIS IS AN EVOLVING SITUATION, THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR SUGGESTED THAT THIS SUBJECT MIGHT OFFER THE BANGLADESH DELEGATION AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO INITIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH US AT UNGA.

3. REAZ RAHMAN, WHO HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING DRAFT POSITION PAPERS, DEMONSTRATED A CLEAR AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES AND THE USG POSITION ON MOST OF THEM. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ON MANY ISSUES, POLICY DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE IN NEW YORK WHEN THE DELEGATION JOINED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, NOW TRAVELING IN EUROPE. ON THE POLITICAL ISSUES OF AFRICA AND CAMBODIA, HOWEVER, HE GAVE AS HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE BDG, AS A NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, WOULD NOT AND COULD NOT DEVIATE FROM THE NON-ALIGNED POSITION. HE OFFERED NO COMMENT ON THE KOREAN ITEM, BUT

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IN SAYING THAT THE MFA HAD NOT EXPECTED THE ISSUE TO BE RAISED THIS YEAR, HE OBLIQUELY IMPLIED THAT IT HAD HOPED IT WOULD NOT BE RAISED. (FYI: BDG RECOGNIZES BOTH ROK AND DRK AND BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS ARE NOW IN DACCA, PRESUMABLY LOBBYING.)

4. ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AND TORTURE, RAHMAN IMPLIED THAT WHILE BDG COULD NOT CONSIDER ANY INITIATIVES IT LIKELY COULD PROVIDE SUPPORT. ON THE DISARMAMENT ISSUES, BDG'S

POLICY IS SUPPORT FOR TOTAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT BUT IT RECOGNIZES THE PRESENT IMPRACTICALITY OF THAT VIEW AND THE FACT THAT ANY PROGRESS DEPENDS ON THE EFFORTS OF THE NUCLEAR POWERS. ALTHOUGH BDG SUPPORTS THE NPT, IT IS UNLIKELY TO ADHERE TO IT IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE BECAUSE OF ITS SPECIAL TIES TO INDIA.

5. SUM OF RAHMAN'S COMMENTS ECHOED THOSE OF AHSAN: BDG DARES NOT RISK OFFENDING ITS MORE RADICAL COLLEAGUES OF THE NON-ALIGNED-CUM-GROUP OF 77-CUM-ISLAMIC CONFERENCE NATIONS BY BREAKING ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES, BUT WILL ATTEMPT TO BE A MODERATING INFLUENCE IN THE CORRIDORS.

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